GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1650
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2016
Salary and Facilities to ASHA and ICDS Workers
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the salary and facilities being provided to ASHA and ICDS scheme workers; and
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the amount allocated for the purpose during 2016-17?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
(SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ)

(a)&(b) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme envisages the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) & Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) as "honorary workers" from the local community who come forward to render their services, on part time basis, in the area of child care and development. Being honorary workers, they are paid monthly honoraria as decided by Government from time to time.

At present, AWWs and AWHs are paid honorarium @ Rs.3000/- and Rs.1500/- per month respectively. The honorarium to AWWs of Mini-AWCs is Rs.2250/- w.e.f. 04.07.2013. Besides this, some States / UTs are also giving additional honorarium to Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers out of their own resources for any additional work assigned to them from time to time.

Government of India, is fully conscious of the significance of the voluntary efforts put in by these honorary workers and therefore, continuous efforts have been made to improve their working conditions by extending facilities such as paid absence on maternity, insurance cover under the Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana, reservation of 50% of vacant posts of Supervisors for Anganwadi Workers, recruitment of 25% of Anganwadi Workers from Anganwadi Helpers etc.

Under the National Health Mission (NHM), support is provided by the Central Government to supplement the efforts of the States to strengthen their health care delivery systems including support for Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) as per the requirements posed by them in their Programme Implementation Plans.

Under NHM, ASHAs are envisaged as honorary volunteers and receive only performance based incentives that are linked to a set of tasks related to Maternal and Child Health and disease control. Currently there are over 30 tasks approved at the central level for which the ASHA can claim incentives. The issue of payment of fixed monthly honorarium has been examined on many occasions and it was decided to continue with the existing system. However keeping in view the important role that ASHAs play-as a link between community and public health system in rural

areas, the incentives to ASHAs finalized at the national level are regularly reviewed by the Government and activities for which ASHAs would get incentives are expanded from time to time. The Ministry has, in recent past, not only enhanced the rates of certain existing ASHA incentives

but has also introduced new incentives including those for routine activities which coupled with other existing routine activities would enable each ASHA to earn at least Rs.1000/- per month subject to her carrying out the routine activities.

Also under the National Health Mission, States have been given the flexibility to design their own incentives to the ASHAs. Some States have been given the flexibility to design their own incentives as per state specific requirement and activities. Some States have introduced fixed monthly honorarium for ASHAs out the State budget. These include States like Sikkim (Rs.3000/- p.m.), Kerala (Rs.700/- p.m.), Rajasthan (Rs.1600/- p.m.), Haryana (Rs.500/- p.m.), Arunachal Pradesh (Rs.3000/- p.m. in non-high priority districts and Rs.4000/- p.m. in high priority districts) and West Bengal (Rs.1500/- p.m.) States of Karnataka and Meghalaya provide 100% while Chhattisgarh provides 50% and Tripura provides 33% of matching amount of the incentives earned by an ASHA as a top up. In addition to the monetary incentives States also provide some non-monetary incentives to ASHAs.

During 2016-17, a sum of Rs.14000.00 crore has been allocated for implementation of ICDS Scheme including Salaries, Honorarium, Supplementary nutrition, Training, infrastructure and other facilities for ICDS functionaries.

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